

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 7034
By DuBois

A RESOLUTION to commend Howard Cecil Whiteside upon being honored with the Maury Alliance's Century Farm of the Year Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those estimable citizens who, through their professional and personal endeavors, serve as a cornerstone of their respective communities and are a credit to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy gentleman is Howard Cecil Whiteside of Maury County, who is being honored with the Maury Alliance's Century Farm of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, the Century Farm Program was established to recognize the dedication and contributions of those families who have retained ownership of the same farm for more than a century, persevering through succeeding generations as they have coped with wars, floods, droughts, economic crises, and other obstacles presented by way of natural and human intervention; and

WHEREAS, Cecil Whiteside was born March 17, 1922, on the land claimed by his ancestor, Samuel Whiteside, in an 1812 land grant; Samuel Whiteside was on the jury of view that examined the circumstances of the death of Meriwether Lewis in the days when Grinder's Stand was in Maury County; the central portion of this land grant has never been out of the family's possession, and is thus fast approaching its third century of Whiteside ownership; and

WHEREAS, today Cecil Whiteside still lives across the road from where he was born the fourth of Ben Oscar and Annie Mary (Pogue) Whiteside's six children; he grew up in the woods along Dry Fork, Cathey's Creek, and Duck River and was an accomplished hunter and fisherman by the age of nine; he raised his children and grandchildren in the same way, and thanks to him, they are all wise in woodcraft; and

WHEREAS, in high school, Mr. Whiteside worked for Oscar Hardison's Grocery as a delivery boy; he was generous with his small salary and freely shared his earnings with his siblings; and

WHEREAS, Cecil Whiteside joined the United States Navy in 1942, and spent most of World War II at sea, assigned as a Naval Guard aboard merchant ships hauling matériel for the war effort; he served his country with great honor and distinction until his discharge in 1945, when he returned to Hampshire and his family's farm; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Whiteside soon met a girl from Missouri, Leatha Lou Masterson, whose father had come to Maury County to work in the phosphate industry; on April 4, 1954, she became his loving wife, and they were blessed with two sons, Cecil Glen and Jeff, and a daughter, Dottie Lou (Boshers); and

WHEREAS, in addition to being a successful farmer and family man, Cecil Whiteside is an accomplished woodworker and cabinet maker; each member of his family has been a recipient of his generosity and proudly owns some of the many pieces of fine furniture that he has built over the years; and

WHEREAS, both Leatha Lou and Cecil Whiteside were early volunteers of the Loose Records Project which ultimately became, in 2001, the Maury County Archives; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Whiteside are active and devout members of the Cathey's Creek Church of Christ, which he has served faithfully for many years as an elder of the congregation; and

WHEREAS, Cecil Whiteside epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Cecil Whiteside for his dedication to farming, recognizing the importance of the family farm to our communities and the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Howard Cecil Whiteside upon his receipt of The Century Farm of the Year Award, presented by the Maury Alliance, in honor of his

contributions to the agribusiness industry in Maury County, as we extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.